

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1 of the specification, after the title, please insert the following title and paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a 35 U.S.C. § 371 national stage of PCT application PCT/EP2004/002753, filed on March 17, 2004, and claims priority of German Application Number 103 11 620.6, filed March 17, 2003, the disclosures of all of which are incorporated herein by reference.

On page 2 of the specification, please replace paragraph [0006] with the following paragraph:

Firstly, it must be capable of promoting proliferation of the cartilage cells. Secondly, it should delay dedifferentiation of the chondrocytes into a fibroblastoid type as long as possible. Since dedifferentiation and strong proliferation are usually closely associated, it is necessary to find a suitable compromise between the properties promoting growth and those stabilizing differentiation. Finally, a culture medium must be capable of maintaining the chondrogenic character of the cartilage cells.

On page 2 of the specification, please replace paragraph [0009] with the following paragraph:

Therefore, it is the object of the present invention to provide a cartilage cell culture medium which meets the above-mentioned criteria. It is another object of the present invention to provide a cartilage cell culture medium which permits shorter culturing times until the desired cell count has been reached and/or a shorter time span until seeding of the transplant carrier. Minimization of the human serum content simplifies logistics and constitutes a substantial relief for the patient.

On page 5 of the specification, please replace paragraph [0025] with the following paragraph:

In a second aspect, the present invention relates to the use of the above-identified cartilage cell culture medium for culturing cartilage cells, especially the selective culturing thereof. The culturing conditions are known to the person skilled in the art and may be optimized by routine experimentation.